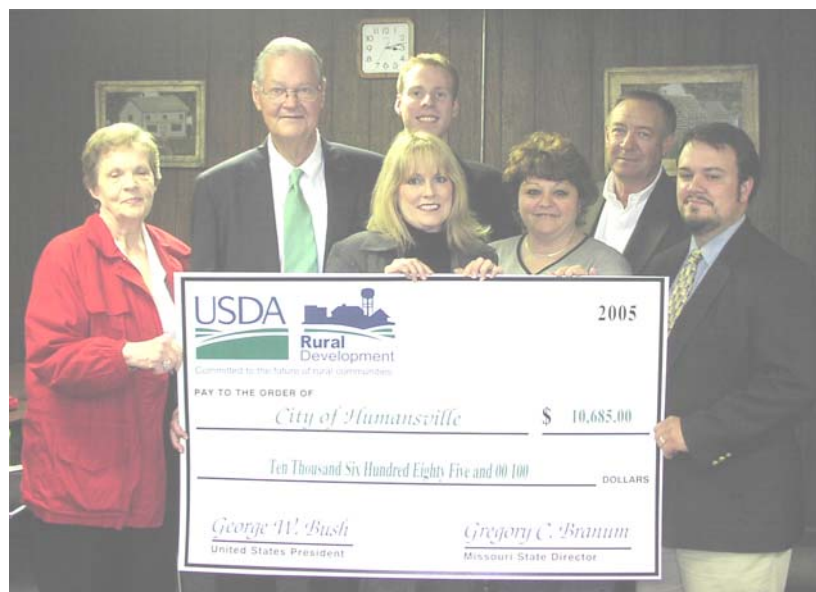


City of Humansville Receives \$10,685 Grant For Early Storm Warning Siren

The City of Humansville received \$10,685 in a Mock Check ceremony April 22, 2005 at the City Hall. The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant funds will assist with the purchase of an early warning storm siren benefiting the 946 residents of Humansville. It will replace a 50+ year old siren mounted on the City's water tower. A live test demonstration of the storm siren followed the mock check presentation and should be a real aid in successfully providing optimum warning for all residents.

"I am very pleased to announce that Humansville will be receiving this grant." Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee. "This new warning siren will help protect the citizens of Polk County by alerting them in the event of threatening weather. I will continue to work closely with USDA Rural Development to provide resources for lifesaving equipment for local communities across Missouri."



Picture: Left to Right Front Row: Carolyn Russum, South Ward Alderman; Congressman Ike Skelton; Mayor Ricka Mathews; Carol Shoemaker, North Ward Alderman; Patrick Morrow, Field Representative for Senator Bond; Back Row: Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director

Congressman Ike Skelton presented the mock check and stated, "Early warning can mean the difference between life and death for those in the path of a tornado or other dangerous storm. This new early warning siren will be an essential tool to help the City of Humansville protect area residents when severe weather strikes, and I want to thank USDA Rural Development for recognizing this critical need."

Mayor Ricka Mathews expressed her appreciation, "On behalf of the citizens of Humansville, I sincerely appreciate the approval of the USDA, Rural Development Grant Funds to purchase the storm siren for our rural community. I would like to thank Empire District Electric for donating their time and the expense installing the pole for the siren. A special thanks to city personnel involved for their fine job working on the grant application. We now have some protection and advanced warning to alert our residents and others in the event of a tornado emergency."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development, said, "An early warning storm siren is one of the first precautionary measures a community can utilize for the protection of their citizens."

The addition of this siren will ensure advance warning. Rural Development is proud to be a partner in the protection of the residents.”

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community. This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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